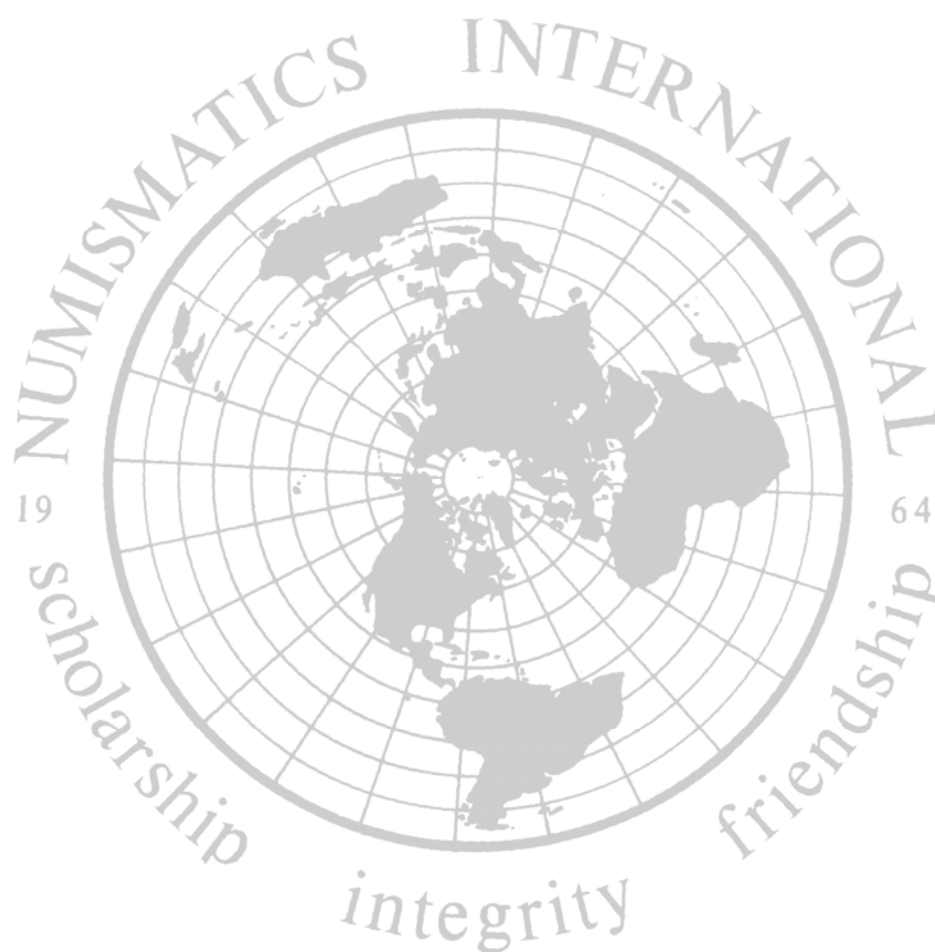


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NI

From the Editor's Desk

Welcome to the September 2005 edition of the Bulletin. This is the first edition for me as your Bulletin editor. I intended to begin this task last winter but due to remodeling which was already in progress I asked the board to delay transfer until my house was in order. Many thanks to John Vandigriff for his support during this period, and for his ongoing help with the Bulletin.

Marvin Fraley was our first editor and did a wonderful job for decades; just as you did for Marvin and for John, I ask for your support in the production of the Bulletin by supplying me with content for publication. You may see some changes as I experiment with the format, and/or if the board decides to alter the Bulletin, we hope you approve.

My thanks to the contributors in this month's Bulletin, I hope you enjoy reading their submissions.

Herman Blanton

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Letters to the Editor

I read with great interest the article on Military Unit Coins by Francis J. Gerner in the May 2005 issue of NI. It was very informative and while I have been a research/writer/dealer in Military Club tokens for over 20 years now, I have recently branched out into military challenge tokens as well.

While my knowledge of this area is somewhat limited, I would like to add the following observations concerning at least those items that are currently available on today's market.

It appears that if there are any military regulations still on the books concerning these items, they appear to be very liberally interpreted, to say the least. To put it simply, if one has the funds available, one can have just about anything made with just about any design, even if they have no affiliation with the military whatsoever.

While these items may be available from sources in China, at least two manufacturers in South Korea appear to be the primary sources for the items available today. The reason why I would rule China out, our military presence there is somewhat limited to say the least, and the postage charges via normal mail/shipping means would bring the price per item to a point that it would not be cost effective.

However, with a large military presence in Korea with many locations, shipping can either be done via the U.S. postal system at stateside rates (as opposed to rates that a 'foreigner' would pay to the same location). Thus, if a military unit based in the United States for example wanted to order a token for their use, they could contact another military member in Korea and have the item shipped to them at the same cost that it would be from any other location in the United States while if they ordered the same token from China, they would have to pay the international rate.

John K Kallman NI # 2189

CONGRATULATIONS To Joe Boling, a NI Life member, who received this year's Farran Zerbe memorial Award for Distinguished Service at the ANA convention in July. According to an article by C. Frederick Schwan published in the July ANA Numismatist, he is past president and current treasurer and advertising manager of the International Bank Note Company, an authority on Military Certificates, an author on Word War II Military Currency and award-winning exhibitor. He previously received the ANA Medal of Merit (1991), the Glenn Smedley Memorial Award (2000) and 12 first-place awards in various exhibit categories at ANA Conventions.

Notice submitted by Elmore Scott

An Identification Chart of Byzantine Monograms

Joseph Uphoff, NLG, NI # 1411

As Sear did not provide a quick reference to the monograms he pictures on p. 32 of his work on Byzantine Coins, I decided to undertake such a guide several years ago. Below is what I have compiled. Note: the Cherson pieces are usually 17-19 mm in size and manufactured in bronze.

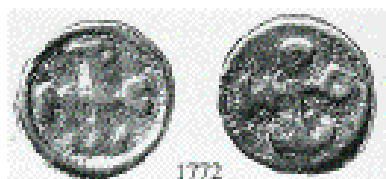


Fig.1

Monogram	Emperor	Denomination	Mint	Seaby Number
Number				
1	Justinian I	Pentanummium	Cherson	197
2	Justinian I	Pentanummium	Theoupolis	245
3	Justinian I	Siliqua	Carthage	254
4	Justinian I	Half Follis	uncertain Italy	328c
5	Justinian I	Nummus	Constantinople ?	340
6	Justinian I	Nummus	Carthage ?	341
6	Justinian I	Nummus	Carthage ?	341A
7	Justinian I	Pentanummium	Carthage ?	342
8	Justin II	Pentanummium	Constantinople	363
8	Justin II	Pentanummium	Constantinople	364
8	Justin II	Pentanummium	Thessalonika	368
8	Justin II	Pentanummium	Nicomedia	371
8	Justin II	Pentanummium	Cyzicus	375
8	Justin II	Pentanummium	Theoupolis	385
9	Justin II	Pentanummium	Theoupolis	386
10	Justin II	Pentanummium	Constantinople	384
11	Justin II	Pentanummium	Theoupolis	387
12	Justin II	100 Nummi	Carthage	392A
13	Justin II	Pentanummium	Carthage	396A
14	Justin II	Nummus	Carthage	402
15	Maurice Tiberius	Pentanummium	Theoupolis	539
16	Maurice Tiberius	Pentanummium	Theoupolis	540
17	Maurice Tiberius	Pentanummium	Theoupolis	542
18	Tiberius II Constantine	Pentanummium	Theoupolis	459
19	Maurice Tiberius	1/4 Siliqua	Theoupolis	555
19	Maurice Tiberius	Nummus	Carthage	572
20	Phocas	Pentanummium	Theoupolis	676A
21	Heraclius	22 Siliquae	Constantinople	776

Monogram	Emperor	Denomination	Mint	Seaby Number
21	Heraclius	20 Siliquae	Constantinople	780-783
21	Heraclius	Hexagram	Constantinople	799-802
21	Heraclius	1/2 Follis	Constantinople	815
21	Heraclius	Follis	Ravenna	915, 916
22	Heraclius	Follis	Sicily	882,884
23	Heraclius	Follis	Nicomedia	836-836A
24	Heraclius	Follis	Constantinople	808 (or monogram 25)
25	Heraclius	Follis	Constantinople	808 (or monogram 24)
26	Heraclius	Follis	Cyzicus	842B
27	Heraclius	12 Nummi	Alexandria	861
28	Heraclius	Nummus	Carthage	881
29	Heraclius	Follis	uncertain	not catalogued
30	Heraclius	Follis	uncertain	not catalogued
31	Heraclius	Siliqua	Ravenna	904A
31	Heraclius	Quarter Siliqua	Ravenna	906, 907
32	Heraclius	Uncertain	uncertain	not catalogued
33	Heraclius	Uncertain	uncertain	not catalogued
34	Heraclius	Uncertain	uncertain	not catalogued
35	Constans II	Follis	Constantinople	1008
35	Constans II	Follis	Syracuse	1104-1107, 1110-1113
35	Constantine IV	Follis	Syracuse	1210, 1211
35	Constantine IV	1/2 Follis	Carthage	1198, 1199
36	Constans II	Follis	Constantinople	1009
37	Constans II	1/8 Siliqua	Rome	1124, 1125 ill
37	Constantine IV	1/8 Siliqua	Rome	1232, 1233
37	Anastasius II	1/8 Siliqua	Rome	1482A
37	Leo III	1/8 Siliqua	Rome	1534A, B
37	Constantine V	1/8 Siliqua	Rome	1579
38	Justinian II	Follis	Carthage	1270 reverse, 1272, 273
38	Justinian II	Follis	Syracuse	1294-1302, 1304, 1435-1438
39	Justinian II	Follis	Carthage	1270 obverse
40	Leontius	Follis	Syracuse	1343
41	Leontius	Follis	Syracuse	1344

Monogram	Emperor	Denomination	Mint	Seaby Number
42	Tiberius III	Follis	Syracuse	1395, 1396
43	Anastasius II	Follis	Syracuse	1474-1475A
43	Anastasius II	Follis	Catania	1475B
44	Theodosius III	Follis	Syracuse	1495, 1496
45	Leo III	Follis	Syracuse	1529
46	Constantine VII & Romanus I	uncertain	Cherson	1767 obverse
47	Constantine VII & Romanus I	uncertain	Cherson	1767 reverse
48	Constantine VII & Romanus I	uncertain	Cherson	1768
49	Constantine VII & Romanus I	uncertain	Cherson	1772 obverse
50	Constantine VII & Romanus I	uncertain	Cherson	1772 reverse
51	Romanus II	uncertain	Cherson	1775
52	Nicephorus II	uncertain	Cherson	1784 obverse
53	Nicephorus II	uncertain	Cherson	1784 reverse
54	John I	uncertain	Cherson	1794 obverse
55	John I	uncertain	Cherson	1794 reverse
55	John I	uncertain	Cherson	1814 reverse
56	Basil II	uncertain	Cherson	1814 obverse
57	Manuel I	1/2 Tetarteron	Thessalonika	1977
58	Manuel I	1/2 Tetarteron	Greece	1979
59	John III of Nicaea	uncertain	Magnesia	not catalogued
60	Maurice Tiberius	Pentanummium	Theoupolis	541
61	Justinian II	Follis	Carthage	1270 obverse right of monogram

Bishop De Jersey & Co and the Token of 1809

Georg H. Foerster NI # 2584

As a collector of Spanish-American coins I never paid attention to the British Channel Islands. In 1966, when the German numismatist Ulrich Schreier gave me a copy of his publication “Die Münzen der Kanalinseln” (“The Coins of the Channel Islands”) I accepted the little book with thanks and placed it in my library without looking at it for years. A big mistake as Ulrich Schreier presented in this publication not only the interesting history, the economy and the monetary developments on those islands—covering a period of 2000 (!) years—but he also informed about the circulation of Spanish-American coins on the island of Guernsey during the Napoleonic wars, saying: “... furthermore Spanish Pesos or 8 Reales were accepted as official and legal payment from 1799 up to 1809 at a value of 4 shillings 6 pence.”

Other sources are giving similar information, as W. Exley in his book “Guernsey Coinage”: “...during 1797 the Spanish dollars (value 4/9) found their way in—how, I don’t know.”

In England—as it is well known—the shortage of coins in circulation had increased to such extent that the government decided in 1797, 1798 and 1804 to authorize the Bank of England to countermark Spanish-American 8 Reales and to place them in circulation.

The Channel Islands also experienced a serious lack of coins with the consequence that Spanish-American silver began to circulate along with the French coins. In 1809 the bankers, Bishop and De Jersey—both originating from old Guernsey families and owners of the Bank of Guernsey—decided to issue a silver token with a value of 5 shillings. They got in contact with Matthew Boulton, owner of the SOHO MINT in Birmingham, where Thomas Wyon (the elder) was given the task to design the tokens and to engrave the dies. The tokens were struck at their SOHO MINT using Spanish 8 Reales as planchets. This is confirmed by the edge and sometimes by traces of the underlying base coin, although mostly not easy to detect. The tokens only had a short life. On October 2, 1809, local authorities intervened prohibiting the use as payment media (see note).

There is no information about the quantity of tokens struck but experts seem to agree that only 6 to 7 examples have survived. In October 1990 when Spink auctioned the R.J. Ford Collection a Guernsey Token in extremely fine condition reached nearly US\$ 20,000. In October 1999 two of the surviving tokens appeared in the auction of the “Antony McCammon Collection of Channel Islands Coins, Tokens, Medals and Paper Money” reaching again very high prices.

Some years later the author decided to visit the “Niedersächsische Muenzkabinett der Deutschen Bank in Hannover” where he never expected the delightful surprise to suddenly hold in his hand a “Five Shilling Token 1809 of Guernsey.” It was an example in magnificent condition showing on obverse the legend “BISHOP DE JERSEY & CO” around the shield of Guernsey with the three lions and on reverse the value “TOKEN OF FIVE SHILLINGS” in a crown of oak leaves surrounded by “BANK OF GUERNSEY 1809.”

Bank of Guernsey 5 Shillings 1809



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

The token, which seems to have been resting there quietly for more than 100 years without getting major attention, will increase the number of surviving examples from 7 to 8.

The author identified the base coin as 8 Reales 1797 from Mexico but was unable to photograph the weak traces of the figures of the year. The following photography however allows discovering—between the letters “B” and “I” of “BISHOP”—the “M” and “o” of the well-known mint mark of Mexico.



Literature:

- 1) Schreier, Ulrich. *Die Münzen der Kanalinseln*. 1965.
- 2) Exley, W. W. *Guernsey Coinage*. 1968.
- 3) Pridmore, F. *The Coins of the British Commonwealth of Nations*. pt 1. 1960.
- 4) Baldwin's Auctions, London. *Auction No. 20*.

Note (translation of the French ordinance):

To all heads of department—court proceedings held on 2 October 1809 before
Eleazar Le Marchant, squire/equerry and others:

In connection with the evidence provided by the King's officials to the effect that certain individuals have recently brought into circulation silver coins bearing their names, valued at five Shillings, the court considers that such a procedure is susceptible to fraud and against the public good. Having heard the conclusions of the King's officials the court has prohibited and prohibits all persons bringing into circulation any similar coins or other coins described as “TOKENS” or by other name, on pain of exemplary punishment at the discretion of the court of justice.

NI

A Renaissance Medal—Lucrezia Borgia
Herman Blanton NI # LM115



The historical accounts of Lucrezia's life vary widely, from poisoner, to model wife and mother in her marriage to Alfonso d'Este as Duchess of Ferrara. This medal commemorates the third, and final, marriage of Lucrezia, celebrated by proxy in the Vatican (30 December, 1501). Lucrezia was daughter of Rodrigo Borgia, who by this time had become Pope Alexander VI, and sister to Cesare Borgia, perhaps justifiably the most maligned character in Renaissance history. Cesare is said to have murdered Lucrezia's second husband and is elevated as a model of unscrupulous behavior and ruthlessness in Niccolò Machiavelli's book, *The Prince*.

As this medal deals with her marriage to Alfonso d'Este, we quote an interesting report related to the marriage arrangements. This marriage was arranged for political reasons, as were all of her betrothals and marriages. As was customary (not to mention because of the foul rumors concerning the Borgias), the prospective groom and father-in-law requested a report from their ambassador, (of Ferrara), to Rome.

"Illustrious Master: Today after supper Don Gerardo Saraceni and I betook ourselves to the Illustrious Madonna Lucrezia to pay our respects in the name of Your Excellency and His Majesty Don Alfonso. We had a very long conversation regarding various matters. She is a most intelligent and lovely, and also exceedingly gracious, lady. Your Excellency and the Illustrious Don Alfonso—so we were led to conclude—will be highly pleased with her. Besides being extremely graceful in every way, she is modest, lovable and decorous. Moreover, she is a devout and God-fearing Christian. Tomorrow she is going to confession, and during Christmas week she will receive communion. She is very beautiful, but her charm of manner is still more striking. In short, her character is such that it is impossible to suspect anything

‘sinister’ of her; but on the contrary we look for only the best ... Rome, December 23, 1501...

Your Excellency’s servant
Joannes Lucas”¹

The image above and description below are from Aureo Subastas Numismaticas, S.A., auction, 3 March 2004, lot number 493. Used with the kind permission of Aureo Subastas.

“(Around 1502) Lucrezia Borgia (1480—1519). Obverse: LVCRETIA ♥ BORGIA ♥ ESTEN ♥ FERRARIE ♥ MVT ♥ AC ♥ REGII ♥ D ♥. Her draped bust facing left, wearing a double necklace, long loose hair with two braids beginning at the temples and tied at the nape. Reverse: Nude cupid, blindfolded and tied to a laurel with his hands to the back; broken quiver hanging from branch to left, and on the floor to right an archer’s bow with broken string; on top, a file of musical scores, on which a violin with a single string bow above, above that, a tablet inscribed: F (PH) FF (horizontal) between BC and IN (vertical). Cast bronze. 59 mm.

“This is a beautiful medal of one of the more fascinating personages of the Renaissance. Daughter of (Rodrigo Borgia), who later became Pope Alexander VI,—of whom it has also been rumoured ‘...his daughter, wife and daughter-in-law’ according to Sannazaro; celebrating her marriage (third of her short life) with Alfonso d’Este, son of the duke of Ferrara. With this union (1502) came an end to her agitated sentimental life; the elaborate, beautiful and slightly melancholy allegory reverse design of this medal is therefore prophetic. This medal is traditionally ascribed to Filippo Lippi, however the enigmatic inscription of the tablet suggests that it could be the work of Fino Phini. In any case, a splendid Renaissance portrait, ‘surely the only one that exists of Lucrezia Borgia (F. Gregorovius ‘Figuren’ 1860)’”²

The Inscription

The obverse: (LVCRETIA BORGIA ESTEN FERRARIE MVT AC REGII D)
“Lucrezia Borgia d’Este, duchess of Ferrara, Modena and Reggio.” The reverse: (VIRTUTI AC FORMAE PUDICITIA PRAECIOSISSIMVM) “Most precocious in virtue also in beauty and modesty.”

The Artist

The Aureo description says the medallist is unknown and that the favored candidate is Filippo Lippi, they may mean the son of Filippo Lippi, Filippino Lippi who lived between ca. 1457 and 1504, as Filippo died in 1469. Another candidate is Bartolomeo Melioli (ca. 1505) suggested by Douglas Lewis.³

¹ Durant, Will. The Story of Civilization vol. 5 The Renaissance. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1952. p. 432.

² Sisó, Teresa, and Eduard Domingo, eds. Selección de 500 Monedas, Medallas y Billetes Subasta Publica, Miercoles, e de Marzo de 2004 a las 19 Horas. Barcelona: Aureo Subastas Numismaticas, 2004. Lot number 493.

³ Stephen K. Scher, ed. The Currency of Fame: Portrait Medals of the Renaissance. s.v. “Italy, Fifteenth Century / Mantuan School, Jacoba Corregia, 20” by Douglas Lewis. New York: Harry Abrams, 1994. p. 87.

For those desiring to study the interesting life of Lucrezia Borgia, information abounds; there are books, movies and even an opera.

Any errors in translation of the Aureo description from Spanish into English and/or any error in translation of the Latin inscriptions into English are entirely mine.



COIN QUIZ by Bob Fritsch NI # LM134

Coinage themes from countries starting with A or B, identify the country associated with the information below, by number. I used the SCWC, 31st edition.

1. Leopold, Lion, Albert, World Fair.
2. Jabiru Stork, Numbat, Captain Cook, Banjo Paterson.
3. Queen Angel Fish, Wild Boar, Lily, a Triangle.
4. Joan D.M.Bisbe, Bishop of Sala, Palau del Princep.
5. Zog I, Prince Skanderberg, Railroad (COTY 1988), Seaport of Durazzo.
6. Porsche, Bummerl House, Grillparzer, Schubert, Mozart.
7. San Martin, Conquest of Patagonia, Pampas Cat, Eva Peron.
8. Ferdinand I, Boris III, Slovanic Alphabet, Vasil Levsky.

Answers found elsewhere in this edition.



A Numismatic History of Ancient Poland: Era of Mieszko I 960-992

Henry W. Schab

(Reprinted from *NI Bulletin*, July 1972)

Discoveries of Greek tetradrachms and Celtic ring money dating back to the 6th century B.C. in the land known as Sarmatia indicate that the culture of these ancient peoples, the forefathers of present Poland, was in an advanced state. Trade between Rome and Sarmatia made its appearance in the 2nd century A.D. and continued to the time of Constantine the Great. Evidence of this era has been disclosed by the finding of large amounts of denarii and other coins as recently as the 1940's in various parts of Poland. For example, one of the Roman coins was a bronze piece marking a victory by Roman legions over Polish and German tribes about 180 A.D. The late Joseph Sawicki, whose collection of Polish coins was regarded by many numismatists as being one of the finest of its type in the world, had early pieces of what is called "Tin Ring" money which was used as a medium of exchange by ancient tribes on Polish soil as early as 500 B.C.

From about 600 A.D. until the 11th century considerable trade was carried on between Sarmatia and the Arabian, Byzantine, German and Scandinavian peoples. Sarmatia was the land mass lying between the Vistula and Volga rivers with Poznan and Gneizno in the west as seats of the early Polish state. Evidence of this trade has been found in uncovered hoards of coins identified with these countries. As time went on the trade with the eastern countries became less. Obojski states that “research in the last decade by the Warsaw Academy of Science revealed that approximately 98% of the coins circulating in Polish territories before 970 A.D. were of Arabian, Persian and Byzantine origin, while the period 970 to 1000 A.D. showed that over 50% of the uncovered hoards of coins were of western European origin.”

The ancient Poles, known as Polians or Polonie (dwellers in the fields or plainsmen), evolved from a combination of many Slavic tribes and began to take on their own ethnic characteristics in the 10th century. Their first native coinage is traced back to the first ruler, Mieszko I who ruled from 960-992 A.D. He started the Piast dynasty which governed the whole of Poland until 1370. Halecki, in his book *A History of Poland*, says “the name of Piast has remained a symbol to the Polish people of their purest ethical tradition, of their national unity, from king to peasant.” He suggests that Piast is not a proper name, but the title of a high functionary, a master of the palace whose descendants took the place of their ancient sovereigns. History states that there were three first Polish monarchs of the House of Piast. Although their names are lost in the dust of ages it was recorded that one after the other worked at the uniting of the Polish tribes and that they left to the fourth, Prince Mieszko, a considerable state.

This “Duke of Poland” in 963 was already preparing himself for an attack from the German tribes under the Prussian Margrave Gero, who did not recognize the young eastern state forming on his borders. Mieszko hastened to enter into a treaty with Emperor Otto I, Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, who quelled the ambitions of Gero and welcomed the Duke of Poland as his friend—after payment of a handsome tribute. Although Poles proudly refer to Mieszko as “our first king,” historians say he never wore the royal crown and was simply referred to as the “first Christian Duke of Poland.”

In 985 this early Polish ruler placed all his territories and people into the hands of the Roman Pope as an act of homage to the Church. In compensation for his act of submission to Pope John XV, Mieszko received the best possible guarantee for the independence and security of his young state. Centuries later this close tie with the Holy See was to serve Poland as a solid support in the greatest crises through which she was to pass.

Mieszko thus unified many small heterogenous principalities into a nation and, having secured the blessing of the Pope, he made this new nation a state recognized among the European countries. In addition, by marrying the Bohemian princess Dubravka in 965, he allied himself with a powerful Slav neighbor who had been Christian for some time. From this time on Christian customs were officially accepted, cities began to grow, churches were built and the first coins of Poland were minted.

The coinage of this period in Polish history consisted of crude silver denars and half-denars, or obols. The monetary standard for trade purposes was called “grzywna” which was equivalent to the Carolingian pound. This standard, equal to 240 denars, continued in effect during the reign of the first two Polish rulers.

Only two different types of coins are known to have been attributed to Mieszko, both of which were denars. One type struck at Posen (Poznan) in the years 963-965 bears on the obverse the summit of a temple surmounted by a cross enclosed in a circle with the name MISICO in crude letters in the exergue.

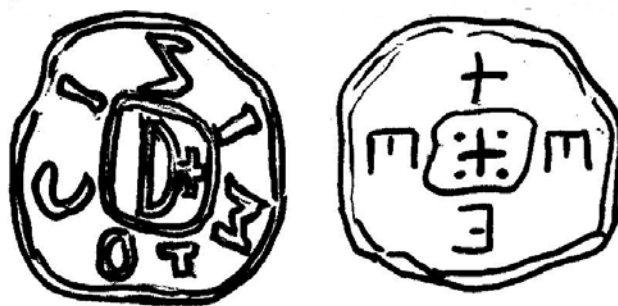


Fig. 1

The reverse shows a cross with four pellets in the field (Fig. 1). Gumowski, in his book *Handbuch Der Polnischen Numismatik* (“Handbook of Polish Numismatics”) identifies this coin as “01.” Most of these silver pieces were found with clipped edges indicating that “short changing” was practiced a long time ago. The only other coin, attributed by Gumowski, is a crude denar showing on the obverse a “bird” with the name MIS ICO in crude letters surrounding the design. The reverse shows a cross with unidentified letters surrounding the cross (Fig. 2). This is typical of the medieval cross motif of this age.

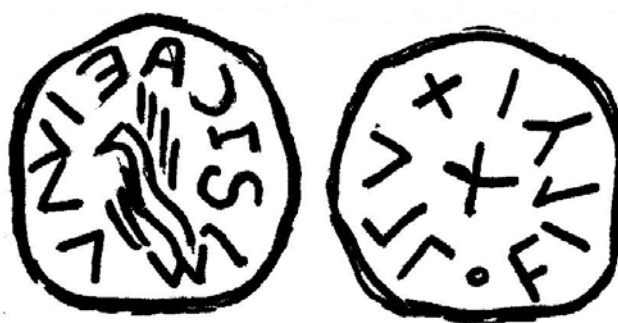


Fig. 2

Both of these coins are roughly 20mm (enlarged in illustrations) in diameter and weigh about 1.53 grams. These coins are very rare and have not been seen for sale or on auction for over 20 years. They are attributed as G1 and G2 by Gumowski, who has identified and described nearly 3000 Polish coins in his famous handbook.

As additional history, the patron saint of Poland, St. Adalbert (Wojciech in Polish), lived during the period under study, and was martyred in the year 997. His friendship

with Emperor Otto III and with Prince Boleslaus (son of Mieszko) brought him to Poland. Unfortunately he lived only three or four months in Poland. While returning to Poland from a mission to Prussia, where he was teaching the faith to the Germans, he was killed by thieves. Boleslaus paid a ransom for his body equal to its weight in gold and amidst great weeping had it removed with pomp and ceremony to Gniezno. The martyr was laid to rest in the cathedral Mieszko had built, where Dubravka's body was also interred. St. Adalbert gave his adopted country far more than ecclesiastical independence. An interesting light on the political power exercised by the saint is shown on a bracteate coin issued between 1136 and 1138 (reign of Boleslaus the Wrymouth) which shows the prince kneeling before the saint who has outstretched his hands over the ruler's head. The meaning is clear, i.e., the Polish ruler received his power not from the hands of the emperor or any other authority, but from the patron saint. History says as a patron saint he not only was committed to protecting the sovereignty of Poland but also was responsible for the development and territorial expansion of the country. This infant country, surrounded by greedy adversaries of all kinds, was struggling for the right to be a sovereign state. This struggle was waged on earth and in heaven, on the military, political, ecclesiastical and hagiographic levels.

To commemorate Poland's 1000 years of Christianity, the government in 1966 produced some silver coins and medals. A 100 zlotych set, consisting of 3 crown-sized coins, was released by the state. One coin was made for general circulation and the other two were minted as "proba" or patterns. All three are 35mm diameter and made of .900 fine silver. These coins were the first silver coins issued by Poland since 1939.



Fig. 3

The general circulation issue is illustrated above as Fig. 3. The obverse side is dominated by a large uncrowned eagle and the legend POLSKA RZECZPOSPOLITA LUDOWA (Polish Peoples Republic) encircling the eagle with the date 1966 under the eagle. Around the rim are placed 17 different coats of arms representing various old Polish cities. The reverse side shows the standing figures of Mieszko and Dubravka, the king holding a double edged broad sword and shield with the queen dressed in traditional Polish costume with her hair in braids. Below the figures are their names and the value of the coin. Around the outer periphery of the coin and encircling the figures is the legend TYSIACLECIA PANSTWA POLSKJEGO (1000th Year of the Polish State).



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

The two pattern pieces (Figs. 4 & 5) also show the king and queen on the reverse and the Polish eagle on the obverse. So started the numismatic history of Poland.

NI

Around a century ago, Sir Mark Aurel Stein, the Hungarian-born archaeologist, explored the desert region of Chinese Turkestan, including the western end of the Great Wall of China. He made many important discoveries including “so-called 'Cave of the Thousand Buddhas'.” Among his writings are references to money and coins, which we hope the reader may find interesting.

M. Aurel Stein, *Sand-Buried Ruins of Khotan* (1900)

Extracts supplied by **Christopher Carson**

I had been assured in Kashgar that Yarkand was the place where I could most conveniently arrange for the money needed on my further journey. There I was to find the Indian traders eager to take Government Supply Bills and my cheques and convert them into cash. Unfortunately, those who needed drafts on Indian Treasuries had already started on their way to Ladak, and the remaining Khattris had taken the opportunity to remit with them whatever ready money they had cleared by the sale of

their goods. So it was no easy matter to find a market for my drafts, and seeing that only a portion of the money I needed could be raised at a reasonable rate, I was ultimately obliged to dispatch a messenger to Kashgar. Until my messenger had returned with the desired cash in silver and gold a start appeared scarcely desirable.

...

Accounts too had to be settled.... Apart from the question of price – no small matter in a country where it would apparently be against all business principles to ask less than double the right amount even from local customers – there is enough trouble in the mere payment. The Chinese currency with its ‘Sers’ or ‘Tels,’ ‘Miskals’ and ‘Fens,’ arranged on a plain decimal system, would be as convenient as could be desired. But its simplicity is of little avail in this outlying province of the empire, which stubbornly clings to its time—honoured reckoning in ‘Tangas’ and ‘Puls’. Each of the little square Chinese coppers known in Turkestan as ‘Dachins’ is reckoned in Kashgar and Yarkand as equal to two Puls, and twenty-five of them make up a Tanga. The Khotan Tanga is worth twice as much as the Kashgar Tanga.

Coins representing this local unit of value there are none; so all sums have to be converted into Miskals, the smallest available silver coins, at the ratio of eight Tangas to five Miskals, unless one is prepared to handle the dirty rolls of Chinese coppers which the local trader keeps strung up like sausages. But the exchange rate between silver and copper is not stable, and the silver Miskal was just then considerably above the value of forty copper pieces which the ratio just mentioned would indicate. So after successfully converting Tangas into the legal coin, a varying discount has to be calculated before payment can be effected. It only adds to these monetary complications that articles imported from Russia are reckoned in ‘Soms’ (Roubles), which in the form of gold pieces of five or ten Roubles widely circulate through the markets of Turkestan, while the heavier Chinese silver ‘Yambus,’ of horse-shoe shape and varying weight, have a discount of their own. During my stay in the country the value of the gold Rouble as against the local currency of Tangas represented by Chinese silver and copper pieces, steadily declined, and with it unluckily fell the Rupee too, the exchange rate of which seems in Turkestan to depend mainly on the Rouble rate.

...

I showed Chang-Darin the Chinese glossaries attached to Julien’s translation of the Si-yu-ki, and the plates of Dr. Hoernle’s publications on the antiquities of Khotan and Kucha. The ancient Chinese coins and the few fragments of Chinese manuscripts there depicted excited a great deal of curiosity on the part of my visitor.

...

On the morning of the next day there arrived the consignment of money, sent to me by Mr. Macartney from Kashgar in payment of my drafts on Lahore. My halt at Karghalik had been made partly in expectation of it. With the bags of Chinese silver coin and the smaller packet of newly-coined gold Rouble pieces, Mr. Macartney’s ‘Chaprassi’ brought home letters also. He was to return the next day and carry my

own mail to Kashgar. So I was kept busy all day with letters and with accounts that were to be dispatched to the Government. I sometimes wondered how the Babus of the Calcutta office would take to the currency complications reflected in my "Monthly Cash Accounts."

...

[Speaking of certain debris fields: The erosion has not progressed uniformly over an entire area, as shown by the banks of loess already referred to, which are now seen rising like small plateaus or islands above the more disintegrated parts of a 'Tati.' Whether they derived comparative protection from the greater abundance of hard debris with which they are ordinarily covered, or from some other special feature, it is certain that they are most useful to the archeologist as evidence of the original ground level. Coins, much corroded metal ornaments, stone seals and similar small objects which can withstand the force of the winds, are occasionally picked up from Tatis.

...

On the 7th I was induced to make a halt at Moji by the quantity of old coins that were brought to me, almost all of an early Muhammadan ruler who calls himself in the legend Sulaiman Kahgan. The site from which they had been obtained, and which I proceeded to examine early in the morning, lies only a mile to the north of the village, and is known as Tögüjai. There I found a number of loess banks covered with broken pottery, similar to that seen on the previous day, but less affected by erosion; and the now dry ravines which the flood water of the early summer had cut through them were the place where the old coins had been extracted. A number of men had accompanied me from the village by the local Beg's order, and their search soon furnished me with numerous pieces of pottery showing ornamental designs and often glazed in bright colours. In the bed of the ravine others set to work to seek for coins, and from the burrows they made half a dozen copper pieces were dug out in my presence. There can be no doubt that these coins have been washed out originally from the same debris layers to which the pottery belongs. Thus a clue is gained for the date of the latter, which may help in regard to the chronology of other sites.

...

I managed to pay a visit to the village of Yotkan, the site of the old capital of Khotan and a well-known find-place of antiquities of all sorts. It was an interesting day I spent at that locality, where the accumulated debris layers of the old city, embedded deep below the present level, are being regularly washed for gold, and in the course of these operations yield up also ancient pottery, coins, seals, and similar items... During the few days of my stay at Khotan much of my time was taken up with the inspection of the coins, terra-cotta figures, and other antiquities that were brought for sale by villagers and "treasure-seekers." Most of the bagfuls contained only the broken pottery and copper coins found so plentifully at Yotkan, and already fairly well known from previously formed collections.

...

I found in Wang-Daloi an intelligent guide to the old sites which extend from Jamada to the south along the left river-bank, and also genial company, as he talked a little Turki. Next morning I passed over the eroded old site known simply by the general name of 'Tati,' forming an area of about a mile square covered with fragments of pottery. Chinese coins up to the time of the Tang dynasty are also found, but of structural remains there was no trace.

...

[At Yotkan:] In reality the great extent of the excavated area which forms, as my careful survey showed, an irregular oblong of more than half a square mile, is almost exclusively due to systematic digging and washing for gold, as it still continues to this day on the north and west side. The banks there are yielding a small but "paying" quantity of gold, and in recent years antiques, such as ornamented fragments of pottery, engraved stones, and coins have come to be counted as a kind of secondary products.

...

[At Yotkan:] The copper coins, which are found plentifully, range from the bilingual pieces of the indigenous rulers, showing Chinese characters as well as early Indian legends in Kharoshthi, struck about the commencement of our era, to the square-hole issues of the Tang dynasty (618-907 A.D.).

...

Owing to superstitious fears and in view of the expected rigours of the winter, the cultivators were naturally reluctant to venture so far into the desert, though they appreciated the pay offered, 1½ Miskals per diem, which was more than twice the average wages for unskilled labour.

...

Then beyond, where cultivated land gave way to scrub-covered low dunes by the river bank, the Beg of Tawakkal, who escorted me with two picturesque attendants carrying falcons as a sign of his dignity, took leave. A present of some Russian ten-rouble gold pieces was to reward him for the services he had rendered, not too willingly perhaps, but still effectively, and to assure his good will in keeping open our communications while we were in the desert.

...

[At Dandan-Uiliq: The ruins, on a first hurried inspection, furnished unmistakable proofs of their character and approximate date. In the remains of frescoes which had once adorned the much-injured walls in some of the larger rooms, I could easily recognize representations of Buddhas and Bohisattvas. These plainly indicated that I was standing in the ruins of Buddhist places of worship,. Peculiarities in the style of the frescoes seemed to mark the last centuries preceding the introduction of Islam as the probable date when these shrines and the settlement to which the belonged had been deserted. And this conclusion received curious support on the first day by Chinese copper coins bearing the date of the Kai-yuen period (A.D. 713-741), which were picked up under my eyes from the debris-strewn ground near the buildings.

...

[Of certain papers recovered by a previous mission:] The three documents I refer to in general appearance and style of writing closely resemble those excavated by me at Dandan-Uiliq, and are, like the latter, official records of a public or private character. The translations with which Mr. Macartney kindly supplied me at Kashgarshow that the first of them, dated in the third year of the Ta-Li period, corresponding to A.D. 768, contains the draft of a report from the officer in charge of Li-sieh (Li-tsa) on a petition from the people of that locality. The report recommends a postponement of the collection of miscellaneous taxes in view of the distress caused by the depredations of robbers. Another document, dated only by month and day, is a military requisition sent from the Li-sieh camp to a civil authority for a skin to recover a drum and for feathers to re-fit arrows. The third, dated in the seventh year of the Chien-Chung period, corresponding to A.D. 786, records the issue of a loan of 15,000 cash on the security of a house in a village (name not deciphered), belonging to Li-sieh.

...

[At Rawak:] Old Chinese coins without legend, such as were issued under the Han dynasty, also turned up at various places among the pottery debris which covered the low ground between the dunes.... The fact that only Han coins were found here, as well as other indications, make it appear probable that Rawak was deserted a considerable time before Dandan-Uiliq.

...

[Beyond Imam Jafar Sadik:] The large size of the house, which covered an area nearly 100 feet long by 80 in width, also helped to suggest that this was the residence of a man of means, and possibly in authority. So my labourers promptly christened the place as the 'Yamen'. It is true they did not find in it the hoped-for horseshoes of silver, but several Chinese copper coins were picked up from the sand in its immediate vicinity. The fact that these coins, as well as all the subsequent numismatic finds on the site, belonged to issues of the second Han dynasty, greatly strengthened my reliance on the palæographic evidence of the tablets.

...

It seemed strange that these ruins far away in the barbarian North, overrun by what Hindu legends vaguely knew as the “great sand ocean,” should have preserved for us in an Indian language records of everyday life older than any written documents (as distinguished from inscriptions) that have as yet come to light in India proper. But from the first there was ample evidence pointing to this chronological conclusion. The Kharoshthi writing of the tablets and leather documents, as already stated, showed close agreement in its paleographic features with the Kharoshthi inscriptions of the Kushana kings, whose rule in North-Western India undoubtedly falls mainly within the first two centuries of our era. This testimony was fully supported by the fortunate discovery in another ruin, N. VIII., of a unique tablet showing by the side of Kharoshthi some lines of Brahmi characters which clearly display the peculiarities of Brahmi writing of the Kushana period. The evidence of the coins was equally eloquent, since the numerous finds made during my stay included only Chinese copper pieces of the Later Han Dynasty, whose reign came to a close in A.D. 220.

...

[Of a graffito at Endere:] The date when this record was incised is given as the seventh year of a period which, owing to the defective preservation of the first character, may be read as Kai-yuen or Cheng-yuen, the year meant corresponding either to A.D. 719 or 791. In the present state of our knowledge it seems hazardous to decide definitely between these two dates. The later one, 791 A.D., would singularly agree with that recorded by the Annals for the final subversion of Chinese rule, and seems to find some support also in the fact that the latest Chinese document of Dandan-Uiliq dates from 790. In favour of the earlier date, 719 A.D., it may be mentioned that only Han coins were found among these ruins, and also that the sculptural remains of the Endere temple seemed to me to bear a somewhat older character than those of the Dandan-Uiliq shrines.

NI

Quiz answers

1. Belgium.
2. Australia.
3. Bermuda.
4. Andorra.
5. Albania.
6. Austria.
7. Argentina.
8. Bulgaria.

NI

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